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FLOOR DEBATE

April 29, 2003      LB 407

South Dakota, 48. Percent of personal income in 1999, we're thirty-second on the hit parade and you'll see us...again, we're about in the middle of all the states right around us. Effort in 1996, we are twentieth, tied with Kansas. And then burden on family of four with AGI of \$50,000 in 2000, and on this one, for Omaha, Nebraska, 36. And this is among the other large cities in the states surrounding us. So I think what we have to remember is that we're neither particularly high nor particularly low on the tax ranking scale. What I would ask you is, do you really want to be forty-ninth on the list, or fiftieth? Because that would probably mean we'll be forty-ninth in educational opportunities and university rankings and all those kinds of things too. So we have to keep that in mind. One other thing I'd like to share with you, and I'm not going to give you more charts. I'm just going to tell you about this one. But in 1981, in 1981, over 20 years ago, property taxes made up 45 percent of our tax burden. Income and sales were each at 20 percent. In 2001, property taxes have dropped to 32 percent of the entire burden, with the other two somewhere right around 25-28 percent. And as you can tell, the property taxes and the other two are more equal now, more the old one-third, one-third, one-third situation. And I would suggest it's a much healthier situation than it was. We've worked very hard to get there. And I don't think we want to progress too far backwards, which is what we will do if we don't bite the bullet, so to speak, and do the income and sales taxes that we need to. I guess the only other thing that I would like to mention, I got out the book The Nebraska State Capitol over the noonhour and took a look at this, because the Nebraska State Capitol, the legislation for it was passed in 1919. I think ground breaking was in 1922.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And the actual construction started in 1924, if my memory is correct. And it was finished about 10 or 12 years later. So the...and the entire Capitol was financed without incurring any debt. And I might tell you, there were cost overruns. It was originally going to be around \$5 million; it turned out to be over \$9 million when all was said and done. But remember what years those were. The last third of that